



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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15th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026
Agenda Item 27.2

SAHELO-SAHARAN MEGAFUNA INITIATIVE

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP14) *Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative*. It proposes the adoption of a new Decision to support the implementation of the Resolution.

The attached draft Decision would support the achievement of Targets 1.1-1.3, 2.1-2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1-4.3, 5.3 and 6.3 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032.

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Background

1. The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (COP14) established the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative (SSMFI) ([UNEP/CMS/Resolution 9.21\(Rev.COP14\)](#)), which covers the addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), African wild ass (*Equus africanus*), Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) Cuvier's gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*), dama gazelle (*Nanger dama*), red-fronted gazelle (*Eudorcas rufifrons*), scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*), slender-horned gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*) and dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*). These species occur in the Sahel, Sahara and Danakil Deserts and adjoining deserts and semideserts; the Range States of the Initiative are Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan and Tunisia.
2. COP14 also adopted the [Action Plan for the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative](#), including the species-specific plans contained in the Annex to Resolution 9.21(Rev.COP14), and agreed to use the [Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass \(*Equus africanus*\) 2017-2027](#) as the framework for the conservation of the African wild ass under the Initiative.
3. Through the adoption of Resolution 9.21 (Rev.COP14), the Conference of the Parties, among other things:
 4. *Instructs the Secretariat to take up the role of coordinating the Initiative and implementation of the Action Plan and, subject to the availability of resources, convene regular Range State meetings to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, revise the Action Plan as necessary and monitor the functionality of the Initiative.*
 6. *Encourages the Secretariat to pursue efforts to bring into the Convention, Range States of the Sahelo-Saharan fauna that are not yet Parties.*
 7. *Encourages the Secretariat to establish and strengthen partnerships with relevant organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Great Green Wall Initiative, the World Bank, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.*
 8. *Encourages the Secretariat to collaborate with the Sahel and Sahara Interest Group to support the Initiative with technical advice.*
 11. *Requests the Secretariat to report on the implementation of this Resolution to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

Implementation of the Resolution

4. The Secretariat commissioned a *Funding Mechanism Concept and Strategy* ([UNEP/CMS/COP15/Inf.27.2](#)) for the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna Initiative. The Strategy was completed in January 2024 and includes an analysis of funds required to implement the Action Plan and of funding options, an assessment of different types of mechanisms and potential instruments, and possible governance modalities for these instruments.
5. The Secretariat provided a message from its Executive Secretary to the participants of the 2025 meeting of the Sahel and Sahara Interest Group (SSIG), which was held from 7 to 9 May 2025 in Tunisia.

Discussion and analysis

6. The implementation of the Resolution has been slower than initially anticipated. However, the recent onboarding of a new Associate Programme Officer will support activities towards the implementation of the Resolution.

Recommended actions

7. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) adopt the draft Decision contained in the Annex of this document, and
 - b) delete Decisions 14.171 and 14.172.

DRAFTS DECISION

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Directed to Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia and Sudan

15.AA Djibouti, Egypt, and Somalia, as former Range States, are requested and Sudan is invited to conduct research into whether naturally occurring extant populations of African Wild Ass remain in their territories, as set out in the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*) 2017-2027, and to report findings to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

15.BB The Secretariat shall:

- a) share the Sahelo-Saharan Megafauna *Funding Mechanism Concept and Strategy* with the Range States and review the feasibility of the mechanisms and approaches proposed in the document; and
- b) discuss the implementation of the funding concept and strategy with potential partners and donors such as the African Development Bank, the French Development Agency (AFD), the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working on ecosystem restoration and development cooperation, to foster collaboration under the Initiative and secure the necessary technical and financial support.
- c) subject to the availability of external resources, support confirmed and former Range States with the implementation of the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass (*Equus africanus*) 2017-2027.